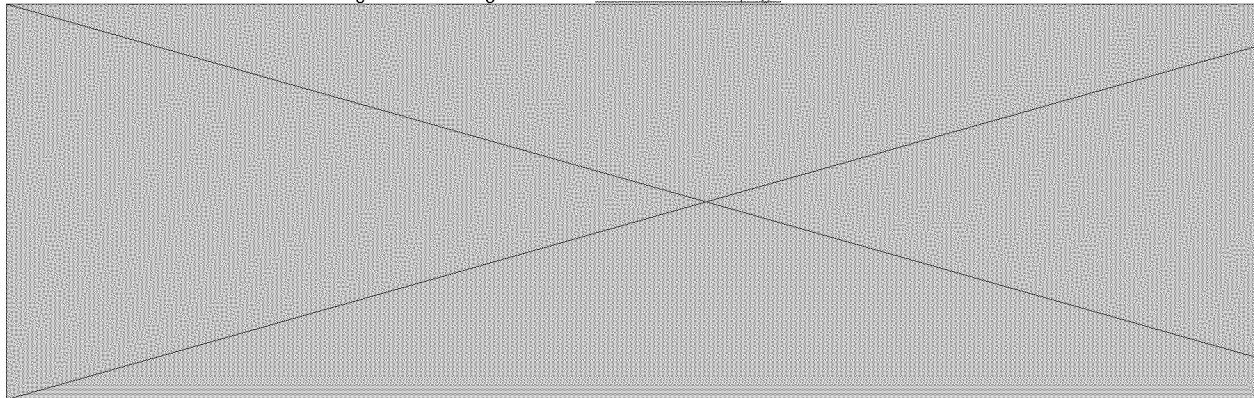
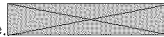


To: dgcox.mitw.org[dgcox@mitw.org]
From: Manville, Jennifer
Sent: Wed 4/5/2017 7:01:00 PM
Subject: FW: MDEQ News Release: Aquila Resources Inc. Back Forty Project Surface Water Discharge Permit Issued

From: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
[mailto:MIDEQ@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 2:59 PM
To: Manville, Jennifer <manville.jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: MDEQ News Release: Aquila Resources Inc. Back Forty Project Surface Water Discharge Permit Issued

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For Immediate Release: April 5, 2017

Contact:

Steve Casey, District Coordinator, caseys@michigan.gov, 906-235-5771

Melody Kindraka, Public Information Officer, kindrakam1@michigan.gov, 517-284-6716

**Aquila Resources Inc. Back Forty Project Surface Water
Discharge Permit Issued**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) today announced it has issued the surface water discharge permit for the Back Forty Project in Menominee County.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is designed to safeguard the Menominee River. In addition to the typical provisions of a NPDES permit to protect designated uses of the river, significant provisions were added to the permit to require submittal and review of downstream ambient water quality data and protection of sensitive mussels in the Menominee River.

The NPDES permit provides the effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for water discharged to the Menominee River during mine operation.

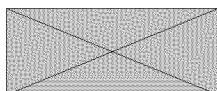
The permit went through a comprehensive review and public comment period before issuance, including input and review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The draft permit was placed on public notice on Aug. 3, 2016.

In addition, a 64-day consolidated public comment period was held from Sept. 1-Nov. 3, 2016, including a consolidated public hearing was held Oct. 6, 2016, on the Aquila Resources Inc.-Back Forty Mine Project regarding the permit applications and draft permits for air, mining, and water, including the NPDES permit. Aquila Resources Inc. received their mining permit and air permit on Dec. 28, 2016.

A responsiveness summary and copies of the individual response letters to comments received in writing during the public notice period for the NPDES permit are available to the public in the MDEQ's MiWaters database, <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us>. Additional information is available on the MDEQ mining webpage, http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311_18442---,00.html.

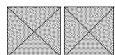
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